

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 24921

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS PARIS

1. QUAI ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR (SOUTHERN) EUROPE
REUILLARD TOLD EMBOFF THAT FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA'S
SHORT OVERNIGHT VISIT TO PARIS AUGUST 24-25 WAS A
TYPICALLY GET-ACQUAINTED CONTACT, INVOLVING ONLY AN
OFFICIAL DINNER AND A TETE-A-TETE WITH FOREIGN MINIS-
TER SAUVAGNARGUES. THREE TOPICS FILLED MOST OF
THE CONVERSATION--DEMOCRATIZATION, AND EC AND NATO
MEMBERSHIP--BUT NO NEW GROUND WAS COVERED AND BOTH
SIDES RESTATED WELL KNOWN POSITIONS.

2. OREJA DESCRIBED SPAIN'S EFFORTS TO MOVE TOWARDS

DEMOCRACY; SAUVAGNARGUES ENCOURAGED CHANGE IN THAT
DIRECTION AND EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS
INVOLVED. THE SPANIARD REPEATED THAT HIS COUNTRY
WANTS TO JOIN THE EEC, BUT SUGGESTED NO TIMETABLE;
THE FRENCHMAN PROMISED FUTURE SUPPORT FOR SPAIN'S
ENTRY. SIMILARLY EVENTUAL SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO
WAS DESCRIBED AND BACKED.

3. REUILLARD NOTED THE WARMTH AND CORDIALITY OF
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THE VISIT, REFLECTING THE GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN

BILATERAL RELATIONS THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE SINCE FRANCO'S DEATH. HE SAID THAT THE BASQUE PROBLEM, "AN INTERNAL SPANISH MATTER," AND THE KING'S UPCOMING VISIT TO FRANCE HAD NOT BEEN TOUCHED UPON SINCE NEITHER QUESTION NOW NEEDS DISCUSSION AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

4. COMMENT: WHILE THERE WAS CERTAINLY MORE SUBSTANCE TO THE CONVERSATIONS THAN REUILLARD WAS WILLING OR ABLE TO PROVIDE, THEIR GENERAL TENOR WAS PROBABLY MUCH AS HE STATED.
GAMMON

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